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# CONSTRUCTING RISK

## Disaster, Development, and the Built Environment

Stephen O. Bender

Volume 4, *Catastrophes in Context*

August 2021

Hardback 978-1-80073-162-2 ◦ ~~\$120.00/£89.00~~ **\$60.00/£44.50**

eBook 978-1-80073-163-9 ◦ **\$29.95/£23.95**

Reviewing current policies and practices and how they evolved, the book examines the financial, economic and physical risk of creating economic and social infrastructure (including housing) - the built environment. It looks at how societies approach development while espousing a more resilient built environment in spite of the vulnerabilities created in the name of development. It examines assessments and associated tools for determining hazard, exposure, vulnerability, risk, and loss to natural hazard events, and processes encompassing monitoring, evaluation, reporting, regulation and enforcement. Application of these assessments and processes apply to infrastructure to be built, in recovery following a disaster, and retrofitting existing vulnerable infrastructure. It looks at associated behaviors that imperil infrastructure, and proposes new approaches that make development a principal actor in disaster risk reduction to be undertaken by sovereign states, international development banks, NGOs, and bilateral aid agencies.

*“The expertise and experience of the author stands out throughout this book, particularly in its focus on the built environment and disaster... Hopefully, the book will encourage new thinking among all those whose first pivot in planning and development, whether before or after a sudden-onset disaster, is to build more, bigger, and faster.”* • **Jane Henrici**, Consulting Senior Researcher and Gender Advisor, World Bank-Haiti and Lecturer, George Washington University

### About the Author:

**Stephen O. Bender** is an architect and retired staff member of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States in Washington D.C. He has acted as a consultant to various international development entities working in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia.

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